



**2005 Social Work Congress**  
*A Coming Together of the Profession*

Leaders in social work convened in Washington DC March 16-18, 2005 to identify and plan a direction for the profession for the next decade. After much discussion, processing, and “dot voting”, the following imperatives were established:

- **Assure excellence in aging knowledge, skills, and competencies at all levels of social work education, practice, and research.**
- **Participate in politics and policy where major decisions are being made about behavioral health.**
- **Assure a qualified social work labor force to serve children.**
- **Take the lead in advocating for quality universal healthcare.**
- **Elevate the public’s awareness of the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of social work practice in healthcare.**
- **Address the impact of racism, other forms of oppression, social injustice, and other human rights violations through social work education and practice.**
- **Increase the value proposition of social work by raising standards and increasing academic rigor of social work education programs.**
- **Mobilize the social work profession to actively engage in politics, policy, and social action, emphasizing the strategic use of power.**
- **Continuously acknowledge, recognize, confront, and address pervasive racism within social work practice at the individual, agency, and institutional levels.**
- **Strengthen social work’s ability to influence the corporate and political landscape at the federal, state, and local levels.**
- **Promote culturally competent social work interventions and research methodologies in the areas of social justice, well-being, and cost-benefit outcomes.**
- **Connect research and practice through partnerships among researchers, the field, and communities.**

**Strategy teams, composed of Congress participants will begin meeting to determine action steps to implement the imperatives. If you have feedback regarding the imperatives, send it to: [imperatives@naswdc.org](mailto:imperatives@naswdc.org).**